



Valley Volunteer

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Intern and volunteer with CVEEC students.

Engaging the Next Generation

By VIP Writer Mary Anne Klasen

With an eye toward the future, the National Park Service (NPS) will mark its centennial in 2016. By strengthening already vibrant youth programming, Cuyahoga Valley National Park (CVNP) will play its part in fulfilling one of the celebration's most important goals: "Engaging the Next Generation."

Thousands of CVNP's adult and youth volunteers introduce children and young adults to the wonders of nature. Our program menu is varied: from recreational (Cycling Schools; Get Up, Get Out & Go) to educational (service learning; Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center) to family-focused (Junior Rangers). Through this multi-pronged approach, we strive to inspire a new generation toward park stewardship.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell perhaps said it best: "When (young people) get their hands dirty working on the land, when they make a difference and they build a segment of trail... they never look at that place in the same way again. It's a connection that stays with them forever."

Volunteer Hunter Hicks is one of those young people who has

found a home in this park. And this 17-year-old intends to make it a big part of his future. He would like to someday work in the park. "I have a passion for nature," says Hunter, who has been volunteering—mostly trail maintenance—since he was about age 11. "It's fun and I like doing it. Trails are like small roads that people can walk on to find nature. If we don't maintain them, they will fade away."

"When I'm done volunteering for the day, I feel a mix of enjoyment and satisfaction that I've done something good," Hunter adds.

Adult volunteer Larry Grewe works with urban youth participating in Cycling Schools. For some, it's their first visit. Larry says providing students with a firsthand look at nature gives him the immediate satisfaction of having had a good day. It also gives him hope for tomorrow's park.

"You're talking to the future," Larry says. "And I'm selfish about the whole thing. In 10 years these kids are going to be able to vote... I want them to love the parks enough to have a passion for them, volunteer their efforts, and write a check."



NPS/TED TOTH

Earth Day 2014.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

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Cuyahoga Valley National Park's (CVNP) volunteer program is co-managed by the National Park Service (NPS) and the Conservancy for Cuyahoga Valley National Park. Other primary partners include Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad and Countryside Conservancy. Together, we accomplish goals through mutually beneficial volunteer experiences. By engaging people through service, we build a community of park stewards.

Currently about **5,700** Volunteers-In-Parks (VIPs) donate nearly **209,000** hours assisting in over **100** different roles. We rely on these dedicated people to provide the highest level of quality services to our visitors and to help us protect America's heritage.



Towpath Wayside Exhibit Project

In February 2015, over 100 volunteers commented on a draft plan to replace all Towpath Trail exhibits and kiosk panels. This input helped CVNP staff set spending priorities and update how we tell the park's stories. Most "wayside" exhibits were created when the Towpath Trail opened in 1993. Since then, we've gained a deeper understanding of park resources. In developing the Canal Exploration Center exhibits, we learned how Ohio canals grew the American economy. In the past two decades, efforts to restore the Cuyahoga River show signs of success. With volunteer support, we have more scientific data about park wetlands. Our appreciation for the valley's agricultural heritage continues to blossom.

Fortunately, the popular Towpath Trail is firm and flat. Visitors of all abilities

can stroll or roll by canal ruins, historic villages, wildlife, river views, and the pastoral landscape. Some new exhibits will have interactive features like tactile maps, audio boxes, flip books, and three-dimensional elements. All will be "audio described" for people with limited vision.

The design phase begins in fall 2015. Depending on funding, installation is planned for 2017.

To participate in the next comment period, tentatively February 2016, contact Arrye Rosser at 440-546-5992 or arrye_rosser@nps.gov.



Market at Howe Meadow.

A Milestone for Countryside Farmers' Markets

by Heather Roszczyk, Countryside Conservancy

A hearty thanks to all Countryside Farmers' Market volunteers, who helped us reach \$1 million in sales in 2014. From setting up tents and greeting market customers to demonstrating cooking techniques

and playing music, we couldn't have achieved this milestone without you. We're always looking for new volunteers, too! Visit cvcountryside.org to learn how you can support the local food movement.

Cuyahoga Valley National Park encompasses 33,000 acres along the Cuyahoga River between Cleveland and Akron, Ohio. Managed by the National Park Service, CVNP combines cultural, historical, recreational, and natural activities in one setting.

CVEEC Volunteers

by Connie Dages, Conservancy

Volunteers continue to be an integral part of the Cuyahoga Valley Environmental Education Center (CVEEC). We accomplished much in 2014, including expansion of our kitchen garden and increased opportunities for our Education Program Volunteers. Our work couldn't happen without dedicated volunteers.

Corporate and individual volunteers got things growing in the kitchen garden. The project began in 2011 with the installation of our hoop house by volunteers from Fairmount Minerals. Plans moved forward in 2014 when Deloitte and Dominion brought 74 employees out for their "day of service."

Deloitte, in their fourth year with us, has been instrumental in making the garden what it is today. Employees have helped create raised beds, install an irrigation system, build a garden shed, and construct an herb garden.

Bringing their own heavy equipment, Dominion employees graded the outside garden space and helped



Dominion volunteers expand garden.

construct a drainage system. Now we can expand the garden to include outside beds of annual and perennial crops. We are on our way to having a richer learning environment. In the garden, CVEEC can highlight the benefits of locally-grown food as part of our curriculum.

Our program volunteers now have more opportunities to be involved with educating Northeast Ohio students. As a result, volunteer hours rose from 670 in 2013 to over 1,300 in 2014. In addition to leading day programs

for visiting school groups, they assist with our resident program. During *All the Rivers Run*, volunteers help students with stream and water quality assessments. Six of our 28 volunteers have completed a lengthy training program to lead night hikes with campers. Many students are not used to being out in the woods after dark, so it's truly memorable.

All of these wonderful people aid in our common goal: to give students unique opportunities to learn in their national park.

Internships Throughout the Park

Theresa Wolanin recalls her habitat restoration internship at CVNP. "Working as an NPS intern is an excellent avenue for exploring your abilities and potential niche as a park employee. As interns, we are provided with a number of wonderful opportunities. In working with staff, we gain invaluable experience and earn certifications that benefit our emerging careers. The best part is, at the end of the day, you can be certain that you are making a difference. We improve the state of the park, preserving it for generations to come. No matter what you're doing, the rewards are priceless!"

Student interns use CVNP as extended learning space all year long. They apply technical knowledge to real world challenges, network, build personal and professional skills, and have fun! Opportunities may include marketing, graphic design, public relations, environmental education, wildlife biology, interpretation, water quality, and trail maintenance.

To learn more, visit nps.gov/cuva/supportyourpark/internships.htm.



Interns monitor beavers.

In the Spotlight

The Impact of Visitor Center Volunteers

During the past few years, CVNP seems to be attracting more tourists. Visitor Center Assistants are often the first park representatives that newcomers meet. Below, several of them reflect on the rewards of the job.

I made recommendations to one couple who planned to spend several days at CVNP. . . As it happened, I was volunteering at multiple sites over that period and kept running into them. They seemed to be enjoying their visit which gave me satisfaction.

— **Barry Taylor**

Our region is so rich in history; it's fun to share that with visitors. So many people have no idea about how the canal system impacted the economy and settlement of this area. — **Eric Broviak**

Last fall I had a middle-aged couple from Kuwait at Boston Store. As I started to explain CVNP, I realized that I was losing the attention of the wife. I asked if she understood English and her husband said only a little. I started over and let her husband translate . . . At the end, the husband remarked that they



Volunteers at Boston Store Visitor Center.

were surprised at how friendly people in the United States are. I replied that most people in all countries are nice and only bad people make the news. They both laughed and agreed. I felt that I had a small impact on world peace.

— **Larry Hahn**

We all volunteer to help others, but WE are beneficiaries as well due to the personal satisfaction of knowing we helped! — **Mary Jane Schremp**

Service & Recreation

Through the Service & Recreation program, we have developed an effective way to introduce young visitors to park stewardship. Teens need to make a personal connection with CVNP before helping to preserve it. For the past two years, we have successfully made multiple contacts with students, combining genuine park experiences with service learning. In summer 2014, over 400 youth traveled to CVNP, often for their first experience with nature. Field trips involved hikes, bikes, and trains. We visited signature sites: Brandywine Falls, Ledges, and Beaver Marsh. We created basement shelving for Boston Store Visitor Center, planted in the CVEEC butterfly garden, removed invasive plants in multiple areas, and mulched at Greenfield Berry Farm.

To learn more, contact Park Ranger Josh Bates at 330-657-2350 or josh_bates@nps.gov.

Park Stewards

Thanks to a National Park Foundation grant, Akron students have designed and built trail features that reduced muddy conditions. The project is part of the Park Stewards program. Engineering teacher Ed Garcia leads a team from the National Inventors Hall of Fame® STEM Middle School. Since September 2014, 18 eighth graders have built a 16-foot “turnpike” on the Perkins/Riding Run connector trail near Furnace Run. The structure raises the path to reduce standing water. They also designed a hardened stream crossing that allows water to flow over rocky trails without washing them away. The result: drier feet and lower maintenance costs. Our future engineers are doing real work in CVNP!



Akron students improve trail.

Volunteer Training & Enrichment

For detailed information about Training and Enrichment, visit nps.gov/cuva and click Support Your Park/Volunteer. The park's Volunteer Handbook lists what courses are required for each volunteer position. Registration is required three business days before class, except for the Enrichment Series. Contact the Volunteer Management Office at 330-657-2299 or volunteer@forcvnp.org.

VIP Handbook Updated

The CVNP Volunteer Handbook is a reference guide to our Volunteers-in-Parks Program. We are excited to announce that an updated version is available at nps.gov/cuva. Click Training and Enrichment under Support Your Park/Volunteer. We encourage you to download the handbook or contact the Volunteer Management Office for a printed copy.

First Aid Training and CPR Classes

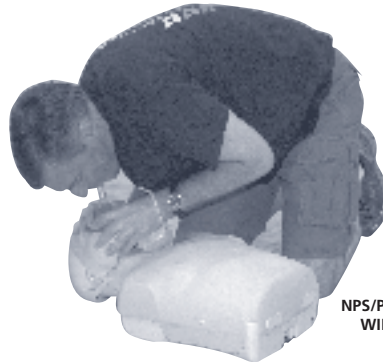
First Aid training provides tools to prepare volunteers for emergency situations. There are two levels of training available based on the program(s) a volunteer participates in. (See the CVNP Volunteer Handbook for specifics.) The basic First Responder course highlights first aid, blood-borne pathogens, and hands-only CPR training. The CPR/AED/First Aid course, adds AED training and full CPR with rescue breathing. Certification via American Red Cross is good for two years.

First Responder

Saturday, May 30 or Sunday, August 23
8 a.m. - 2 p.m.

CPR/AED/First Aid

Sunday, May 31 or Saturday, August 22
8 a.m. - 4 p.m.



NPS/PETER WILSON

Volunteer Orientation

This orientation provides volunteers with information such as the park's mission, vision, and partners, as well as CVNP's expectations and standards. Current volunteers are required to attend within the first six months of beginning to volunteer. Prospective volunteers can come learn how to get involved.

Thursdays, August 6 or January 7 or April 7 (2016)
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Saturdays, June 13, October 31, or March 5 (2016)
10 a.m. - noon

Enrichment Series

The Enrichment Series provides volunteers with new insights about the park, information to share with visitors, and a look behind the scenes. Volunteer enrichment aims to give you a more meaningful, stimulating, and educational experience. Join us on the second Tuesday of each month at Happy Days Lodge. Refreshments start at 6:30 p.m. Lectures are 7 - 8 p.m., unless otherwise noted. Upcoming topics are posted on nps.gov/cuva under Support Your Park/Volunteer.



NPS/TED TOTH

Volunteer on scenic railroad.

Training in Interpretation

As representatives of CVNP, volunteers have the opportunity to engage, educate, and endear visitors to the park for years to come. By employing strategies of interpretation, volunteers can make a lasting impression on every visitor they encounter. These classes are also available online.

Foundations of Interpretation

course provides the groundwork for what interpretation is and why it works. This is a prerequisite for other interpretation classes.

Informal Visitor Contacts

course captures the spontaneous types of interactions volunteers have with visitors, whether informational or interpretive.

For a schedule, visit our Training and Enrichment webpage (see top left for link).



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Milestones & Transitions

Milestone Awards

We are proud to recognize the following volunteers for reaching these milestones in their cumulative hours of service during 2014.

1,000 hours: Bob Blum, Judy Blum, Janet Bodjiak, Eleanor Campbell, David Cesaratto, Lee Chilcote, John Cummings, Sharon Curry, Tina Dean, Ray Dellmore, Joan Dorsey, Joe Dorsey, Richard Falkowski, David Foster, Henry Gulich, John Hamilton, Cherie Harris, Dave Harris, Sherri Harris, Chuck Hass, Joseph Hooven, JoAnn Leon, Michael Long, Philip Kinson, Diane Korfhage, Dan Kriegar, Becky MacKay, Joe Mate, Judy Matz, Keith Miles, Thomas Moore, Hope Orr, Tim Peters, Sherry Petkovsek, Dale Politi, Daniel Prhne, Denny Reiser, Thomas Romito, Valerie Simko, Bob Straley, John Vander Kooi, Jim Virost, Judy Whitwell, Pamela Williams, and Philip Wojcik

2,000 hours: Marilyn Diefendorff, Fred Glock, Ralph Gray, Larry Grew, Charlie Hosta, Tom Kovach, Andrew Luksko, Richard Kroczyński, William Manthey, Doug Pearson, Pat Rice, Regis Schilling, John Schmitt, Carol Schroeder, Eugene Stepanik, Linda Thede, Robert Timko, Bob Tucker, Pat Vance, Jane Whitehead, Bruce Wings, and Sue Anne Wolf

3,000 hours: Trent Alberts, Margaret Bobel, Elizabeth Bonness, Gary Graham, Gordon Hartschuh, Terri Igneczi, Alan Rice, Duane Severt, and Ed Toerek

4,000 hours: George Bleyle, Chaker Fadel, Joan Greenberg, Tony Hart, Thomas Johnston, Dennis Matlosz, Tim Osyk, Ken Sabol, and Jack Williams

5,000 hours: Dottie Burnison, Danny Krol, Susan Loughry, and Louise Nahas



Henry Gulich and his VIP supervisor.

VIP Awards

George and Helen Hartzog Awards for Outstanding Volunteer Service recognize the efforts of exceptional individual volunteers and groups in the National Park Service. The 2015 individual nominees are Liz Bonness, Rich Kroczyński, Terri Igneczi, Ken Sabol, Bruce Wings, and Gary Kroggel. The enduring service nominees are Winnie Kennedy and Peg Bobel. The youth nominee is Hunter Hicks. Citizen Science is the group nominee.

United Way Volunteer Celebration honors the spirit of volunteerism in our community. In April 2015, Henry Gulich, Elaine Murtaugh, Laurie Toth, and John Vander Kooi were spotlighted for their dedication.

Parkwide Volunteer Picnic

The 2015 Parkwide Volunteer Picnic is Friday, August 14 from 6 - 9 p.m. Invitations will be sent to volunteers with 40 or more annual service hours.



Trailblazer mounted patrol.

A Fond Farewell and Best Wishes

The reins of various volunteer groups have changed hands. As the sun set on 2014, several remarkable volunteer supervisors took advantage of optional NPS retirement incentives. Happy trails to all the retirees: Ernest Bush, Mary Dyer, Sylvia Flint, Sheba Harris, Dave Knight, Dan Manning, Paul Motts, Lynette Sprague-Falk, Cindy Swaggard, Scott Van Houten, and Robert "Gary" White. Collectively, they served Cuyahoga Valley for about 216 years.

Recognizing Volunteer Groups

We thank the following groups for their volunteer service in 2014:

Youth

Apples of Gold Child Care
Archbishop Hoban High School
Boy Scout Troop 506
Boy Scout Troop 575
Case Western Reserve University
Cleveland Sight Center
Cub Scout Pack 252
Cuyahoga Valley Christian Academy
CWRU Weatherhead School of Management
Eagle Scout Brandon Arbogast
Eagle Scout Josh Morrison
Eagle Scout John Wilson
Eagle Scout Brian Zaborszki
Girl Scout Troop 70219
Girl Scout Troop 71901
Girl Scout Troup 90146
Harvest Home
Hawken School
Hudson Montessori School

Kent State University
Lakewood H2O
Laurel School
Menlo Park Academy
National Inventors Hall of Fame®
STEM Middle School
New Albany Middle School
Newbury Junior High
Oberlin College – Youth Service Project
Open Doors Academy
Seton Catholic
Stark State Upward Bound
St. Edwards High School Outdoor Club
St. Hilary Catholic School
St. Sebastian / St. Vincent Summer Camp
The University of Akron University School
Upward Bound Classics University of Akron
Walsh Jesuit High School
Woodridge Middle School

Corporate/Adult:

Alcoa Corporation
Bank of America
Bemis North America
Buckeye Trail Association
Buehler Food Market
CBIZ, Inc.
CISCO
Cohen & Company
Corporate Technologies Group
Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad Volunteer Association



Ernst & Young employees clear invasive plants.

Cuyahoga Valley Trails Council
Deloitte
Dominion
Emmanuel Baptist Church
Ernst & Young LLP
FedEx
Fifth Third Bank
First Congregational Church of Hudson
Jo-Ann Fabric and Craft Stores
Key Bank, Inc.
Kobelco Stewart Bolling Inc.
Leidos
Medina County Ohio Horseman's Council
Municipal Service Group
The North Face - Woodmere
Northeast Ohio Hiking Association
Northeast Running Club
Our Lady of the Elms
PPG Industries Foundation
Selman & Company
St. Albert the Great Parish
Summa Health System
Support for Talented Students
Swagelok
United Healthcare Group
University of Michigan Alumni Association of Cleveland
US Coast Guard



Kent State students plant trees.



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Make a Difference!

Do you want to try something new? To find a list of current volunteer opportunities, visit nps.gov/cuva and click Volunteer. Support educational programs, visitor services, natural resource monitoring, habitat restoration, trail maintenance, and administration. There are drop-in, seasonal, and year-round opportunities. Many of our ongoing volunteer positions have limited recruitment periods, so check our website regularly or sign up to receive the quarterly *Volunteer Opportunities E-News*.

2015 Days of Service

Individuals and groups are invited to lend a hand. Projects often include habitat restoration, trail work, and learning. Age limits vary by project. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Advance registration is required. For details and sign up, visit nps.gov/cuva and click Volunteer, or call 330-657-2299.

Global Youth Service/Earth Day
Saturday, April 18

RiverDay
Saturday, May 16

Trails Day
Saturday, June 6

NEW! NPS Founders' Day
Saturday, August 22

National Public Lands Day
Saturday, September 26

Make a Difference Day
Saturday, October 24



Make A Difference Day 2014.

Trails Update

2014 was a big year for volunteers who provide valuable assistance maintaining and restoring the park's signature trail system. On Make A Difference Day, for example, over 400 service hours helped reopen Tabletop Trail after a ten-year closure. The project received financial support from TRAILS FOREVER donors, including Medina County Ohio Horseman's Council.



TRAILS FOREVER

Join us for 2015 volunteer service events focused on new construction. East Rim will be the park's first single-track trail, serving hikers and mountain bikers. It will skirt the park's eastern edge between I-271 and I-80. Lower Furnace Run Trail will expand hiking opportunities near Everett Covered Bridge. A third trail will make a new connection between Hines Hill Conference Center and Stanford House in Boston. These new trail initiatives are generously supported by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

Register for a Day of Service and be a part of TRAILS FOREVER!

For a large-type version of this newsletter, call 440-546-5991